

Pennant Debriefs – Factual History

During 2017, I was asked to help some clubs specifically with pennant team debriefs. A big issue of course was the unwillingness of many members to be honest in their appraisal.

Again in 2018 some more clubs have asked the same question of me to help with team debriefs.

Remember debriefs are the post mortems to see if any objective was met in the pennant competition today. Now most clubs / players have no objective so I better give an example.

Below we can compare the objective with the recorded performance of a Lead player in pennant:

- Get one bowl per end within mat length (ML) – result 20/25 ends played;
- Deliver the jack to within one metre of requested length – result 9/10 times;
- Perform at 50% effective ML for the game - result 60%;
- Won when 12 of 13 jacks thrown were the full maximum length distance;
- Whenever lead bowled at 50% effective or better, team rarely lost;
- Whenever lead bowled one bowl within ML 20/25 ends, team never lost;
- Whenever team front end has 2/4 bowls in head 18/25 ends, never lost.

Now with pennant having a four and being at different levels there is a need to have different standards to achieve as per the following sample table. Competition FOURS TEAM RINK Statistics inserted in the table are hypothetical;

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(Bracketed figures in this table would be the standards based on 50 deliveries)

	LEAD	2nd	Third	Skip
ML Std accepted % Div.2.club level & objective	36 (18)	32 (16)	28 (14)	24 (12)
ML Std accepted % Div.1.club level & objective	40 (20)	35 (18)	30 (15)	25 (13)
ML Std accepted % State level & objective	60 (30)	55 (28)	49 (25)	44 (22)
ML Std accepted % National level & objective	75 (38)	70 (35)	65 (33)	60 (30)

Another aspect of the debrief may focus on the skip and their tactical skill on the day.

Here is one such observation using statistics from a game:

- Teams win 16/25 ends yet loses 21 -24 because the SKIP dropped 4 ends with 17 shots; which ignores the base game plan;
- Review and question him/team about the circumstances (reluctance arises here)
- Losing Skip resorted to 43.5% weighted shots,
- While Winning Skip had 7% weighted shots
- BOG: the skip for managing the emotions of his guys when 1-11 after 8 ends, though early on his own game was not its usual brilliant self; the final score 24/22, says it all.
- Skipping again is a value judgement when we evaluate that player. The spirit of a rink team is apparently affected by three factors – 1) either the demeanour of the skip, 2) tactics chosen by the Skip or 3) the playing performance of the Skip. When it is all three factors, or even two of the three, then the Skip stands real high in my view.

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